

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,194,676 to Takahashi et al. (hereinafter "Takahashi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,333,475 to Kontani (hereinafter "Kontani").

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi, Kontani and further in view of EP 0647801 to Brock (hereinafter "Brock").

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Claim 1 has been amended and claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1-11 are presently pending with claims 1-4 currently under consideration.

Statement of Substance of the Interview

On November 6, 2007, Applicant's representatives conducted an interview with the Examiner and his supervisor to discuss the previously applied art with respect to proposed arguments and amendments. In the interview, the Examiner indicated that the reinforcing ribs of the present invention would not be taught or suggested by the presently applied art and, therefore, may be a novel feature.

The Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Kontani. Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi, Kontani and further in view of Brock. Applicant traverses these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 in accordance with the suggestion of the Examiner and his supervisor during the interview of November 6, 2007. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-4 are in clear condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under

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37 C.F.R. 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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